

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

16. (New) An electrical device for controlling a generator in an electrical system of a motor vehicle, comprising:

a controller for controlling the generator voltage, wherein the controller provides a first area of operating characteristics in which a voltage control is performed, and at least one second area of operating characteristics in which a torque control is performed.

17. (New) The electrical device as recited in Claim 16, wherein at least one of: a) a transition between the first area and the at least one second area; and b) a width of the first area and the at least one second area, is a function of at least one operating characteristics variable of the electrical device.

18. (New) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein the first area for the voltage control extends a specified range from about a setpoint voltage.

19. (New) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein the first area is defined as a function of a specified torque.

20. (New) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein two second areas are provided for the torque control,

and wherein the two second areas extend on both sides of the first area for the voltage control.

21. (New) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein the at least one second area for the torque control lies within a voltage range defined by two voltage boundary values.

22. (New) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque variable is controlled according to a linear function.

23. (New) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque variable is controlled as a function of time and an operating parameter of the electrical device.

24. (New) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque variable is controlled according to a functional relationship defined in a characteristics map.

25. (New) A method for controlling an operation of a generator in connection with a vehicle electrical system of a motor vehicle, comprising:

- recording a voltage of the generator;

- determining whether the recorded voltage lies in a specified range from a setpoint voltage;

- performing a voltage control with reference to the setpoint voltage, if the recorded voltage lies in the specified range from the setpoint voltage;

- performing a torque control, if the recorded voltage: a) lies outside the specified range from the setpoint voltage;

and b) lies within a predetermined range defined by voltage boundary values; and

specifying a highest priority for the voltage control, if the recorded voltage lies outside the predetermined range defined by the voltage boundary values.

26. (New) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein, in performing the torque control, the torque is changed according to a linear function.

27. (New) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein, in performing the torque control, the torque is change as a function of time and a specified operating parameter of an electrical device that includes the generator and a controller.

28. (New) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein, in performing the torque control, the torque is change according to a functional relationship defined in a characteristics map.

29. (New) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein at least one of: a) a width of a first area of operating characteristics in which a voltage control is performed and a width of at least one second area of operating characteristics in which a torque control is performed; and b) a width of a transition area between the first area and the at least one second area, is predetermined.

30. (New) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein at least one of: a) a width of a first area of operating characteristics in which a voltage control is performed and a width of at least one second area of operating characteristics in which a torque control is performed; and b) a width of a transition area between the first area and

the at least one second area, is adjusted to operating parameters of an electrical device that includes the generator and a controller, during a driving operation of the motor vehicle equipped with the electrical device.